

[8 MAY, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

Scheme. These are abolition of pre-export DEPB scheme, rationalisation of DEPB rates to account for the changes in customs duties, fixation of Caps on certain items but without verification of Present Market Value (PMV) on such items and removal of threshold limit of 20 crore for fixation new DEPB rates.

(b) The above steps have been taken as part of export promotion measures and also as part of simplification of procedures. It is, however, not possible to quantify at this stage the savings, if any, likely to accrue at a consequence of these changes.

Agenda for next World Trade Body Meeting

4456. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) Whether India proposed to raise the issue of E-commerce, Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and domain names in internet at the next World Trade Body meetings; and

(b) if so, the measures taken to persuade other developing countries to raise issue along with India ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) World Trade Organisation has established a work programme to examine all issues related to trade in global electronic commerce in Council for Trade in Goods, Council for Trade in Intellectual Property Rights, Council for Trade in Services and Committee for Trade and Development. India has actively participated in the discussions. India's concerns are with respect to issues relating to the developmental dimension of electronic commerce, applicability of existing WTO rules to electronic transmissions, domain names, jurisdiction and enforcement of intellectual Property Rights (IPR), etc. India would like the work programme to address these concerns. However, the discussions are still in initial stages and India will continue to seek support from other countries with a view to project and protect our interests.

Protection to Agriculture Sector

4457. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) Whether it is a fact that free imports of some items allowed in the new Exim Policy are likely to adversely affect the agriculturists and farmers in the country;